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Virginia Survey Of Hunter Harvest, Effort, And Attitudes 1996-97



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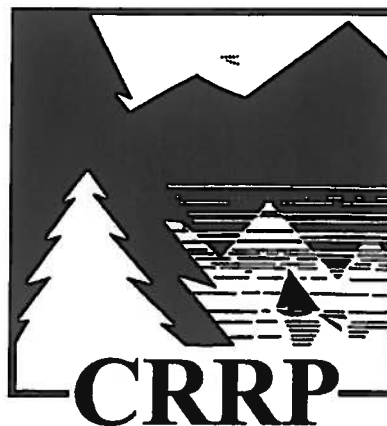
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**Conducted For:
Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
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By:



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Virginia Survey of Hunter Harvest, Effort and Attitudes 1996-97

The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, being the agency primarily responsible for managing the state's fish and wildlife resources, depends upon accurate population indices to monitor the health of wildlife species. Various techniques are used annually to establish indices of population numbers. Walking transects, enumerating the presence of species by counting tracks, droppings, etc. within quadrants, and conducting call counts along highways are excellent examples of these techniques (for a detailed analysis of estimating wildlife populations, see Davis and Winstead 1980).

Another group of indices important to wildlife managers involves precise estimates of harvest and hunter efforts. Game harvest surveys collect data which are used to generate indices that can be used to monitor changes in harvest and hunter effort across seasons. These data, in turn, can be used to regulate harvests, evaluate habitat conditions, and monitor various aspects of the socio-economic environment (Steffen, 1987:7).

Although some researchers have attempted to estimate game harvests through unobtrusive observation techniques (see Jackson and Norton, 1979), and some management areas are conducive to conducting counts at check stations, this is not feasible for producing statewide or regional estimates. Therefore, game harvest surveys are typically conducted through the use of mail questionnaires. Filion (1980) provides an excellent overview of the use of human surveys in wildlife management.

The purpose of this study was to:

- (a) estimate game harvest and hunter effort indices for major game and furbearing species in Virginia; and,
- (b) collect and analyze other socio-psychological data deemed important to the agency, such as hunters' satisfaction, attitudes, beliefs, preferences, and constraints.

Methods

Generation of the Sample

A random sample of 5,000 Virginia hunters was drawn from license records maintained by the Administrative Services Division of the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. A stratified, random sampling design was developed to select potential survey participants from these files. All persons who purchased a general state resident hunting license, a county-city license, or a senior license for the 1995-96 season were eligible to be drawn ($N = 282,492$). To ensure the representativeness of the sample, the number of license holders within each of the three categories was determined and the number of names selected was proportionate to the

number of licenses sold (see Table 1).

Consideration was also given to ensuring the representativeness of the sample geographically across the state. The most preferred method would be to select hunters based on where they hunted; but, there was no way to determine the distribution of hunting across the state. The most feasible strategy, then, was to select hunters proportionately, based on where they purchased their license (i.e., if a license agent sold 2% of the total licenses within one of the

Table 1.
1995-1996 Hunting Population and Survey Sample Statistics

License Type	Population	Sample	Pct.
State Resident Licenses	249,466	4,415	88.3%
County/City Licenses	18,557	328	6.6%
Senior (65+) Licenses	14,469	257	5.1%
<hr/>			
TOTALS	282,492	5,000	100%

three categories, then 100 license holders - 2% of 5,000 - were drawn from that license agent's returned license stubs). The social security number of each hunter selected was entered into a computer file and submitted to the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). The DMV, in turn, provided researchers with names and addresses of all hunters selected. In general, the sampling procedures used in this study were built upon the work described by Steffen (1987) in Mississippi.

Development of Survey Instrument

A survey instrument was developed to collect harvest data for selected Virginia game and furbearing species. The design of this instrument was developed to allow the replication of this data collection effort on an annual basis. Game harvest data served as the core of the survey instrument. However, hunter effort data, preferences for seasons and bag limits, and other socio-economic data were collected as well. VDGIF staff biologists and administrators were polled to determine general areas of needed data and used to refine the instrument (Appendix A).

Administration of the Survey

Procedures outlined by Dillman (1978) were employed to collect the data. A questionnaire, a self-addressed pre-stamped envelope, and a personalized cover letter explaining the importance of the study were mailed to each of the 5,000 study participants. One week after the initial mailing, a post card reminder was sent to each person to encourage early response. Non-respondents to the first mailing were identified and two follow-up mailings were sent, when necessary.

Response Rate

By the end of the data collection period, a total of 256 surveys were returned as undeliverable (persons moved, wrong address given, etc.). They were removed from the original sample. Another 3,166 questionnaires had been returned. Of that total, 390 persons either did not purchase a license in 1995-96 (330 persons/6.6%) or refused to complete the survey (60 persons/1.2%), and were subsequently removed from the sample as well. Consequently, a total of 2,766 usable questionnaires were received, resulting in an effective response rate of 63.5% (effective $n = 4,354$).

Data Analyses

Data from returned questionnaires were entered into a computer file and analyzed using standard statistical techniques. Estimates of state-wide and regional harvests of each species were generated with the level of precision (std. error) of each estimate specified. Estimates were based on the total licenses sold within the three categories (state resident, county/city, and senior) as depicted in Table 2.

Table 2.
Distribution of Hunting License Holders
Among Three License Categories, 1996-97

	Population	Pct.
State Resident Licenses	241,754	88.6%
County/City Licenses	16,733	6.1%
Senior (65+) Licenses	14,499	5.3%
TOTALS	272,986	100%

Regional comparisons were made based on the five regions of Virginia depicted in Figure 1. For a detailed account of the statistical formulas used for specific statewide and regional calculations of estimates and standard errors, readers are encouraged to see Steffen (1987).

Results

Results are provided on the following pages in tabular form. Analyses are segmented into three sections of information. The first section provides estimates and standard errors of harvest and effort for 40 game species (or subpopulations of game animals) during the 1996-97 hunting seasons. Statewide summaries are shown in Tables 3 and 4. Regional estimates are provided in Tables 5-43.

The second section assesses hunters' preferences for selected season dates, bag limits, shooting hours and other data pertinent to management of hunting in Virginia. This information is included in Tables 44-73.

The third section assesses the perceptions hunters regarding factors that constrain their ability or opportunity to hunt. As with previous analyses, these data are summarized statewide and regionally in Table 74. An analysis of hunters' history of purchasing Virginia hunting licenses is illustrated in Table 75.

Notes

Several important points should be considered when interpreting the tables. They are summarized below.

1. When considering statistics given in this report, it is important to remember that they should not be viewed as absolute numbers, especially when comparing these statistics with other statistics from other studies. Rather, the data provided here are only indices of harvest and effort, for use in conjunction with past and future mail surveys in this ongoing research project to determine trends. Response and non-response biases exist in all survey efforts. However, when care is taken to fully replicate study methods in subsequent studies, biases should be constant, therefore providing indices of trends over time.
2. Total Harvest and Total Man-Days statistics are derived from a formula utilizing the total number of licenses sold for the 1996-97 hunting season ($n=272,986$). However, the statistics reported for Spring Turkey (1996) used a factor of 282,492 since this season was actually during the 1995-96 hunting season. Total Harvest statistics include all animals harvested regardless of whether or not a hunter was hunting specifically for that animal (incidental kills).
3. Statistics for (a) Average Daily Kill, (b) Average Seasonal Harvest, (c) Percent Successful Hunters, (d) Average Seasonal Days Hunting, (e) Total Hunters, and (f) Percent of Total Licenses/Hunters Per Region were calculated using data only from those hunters who reported hunting specifically for that game animal.
4. Totals may not always total 100 percent due to rounding errors or missing values.
5. Regions were renumbered after the 1993-94 study. The composition of the regions, however, is consistent among studies. Please refer to the map included as part of the survey instrument, included as Appendix A.
6. Parenthetical notations displayed immediately following table number (e.g., Q24) refer to question numbers in the survey instrument.

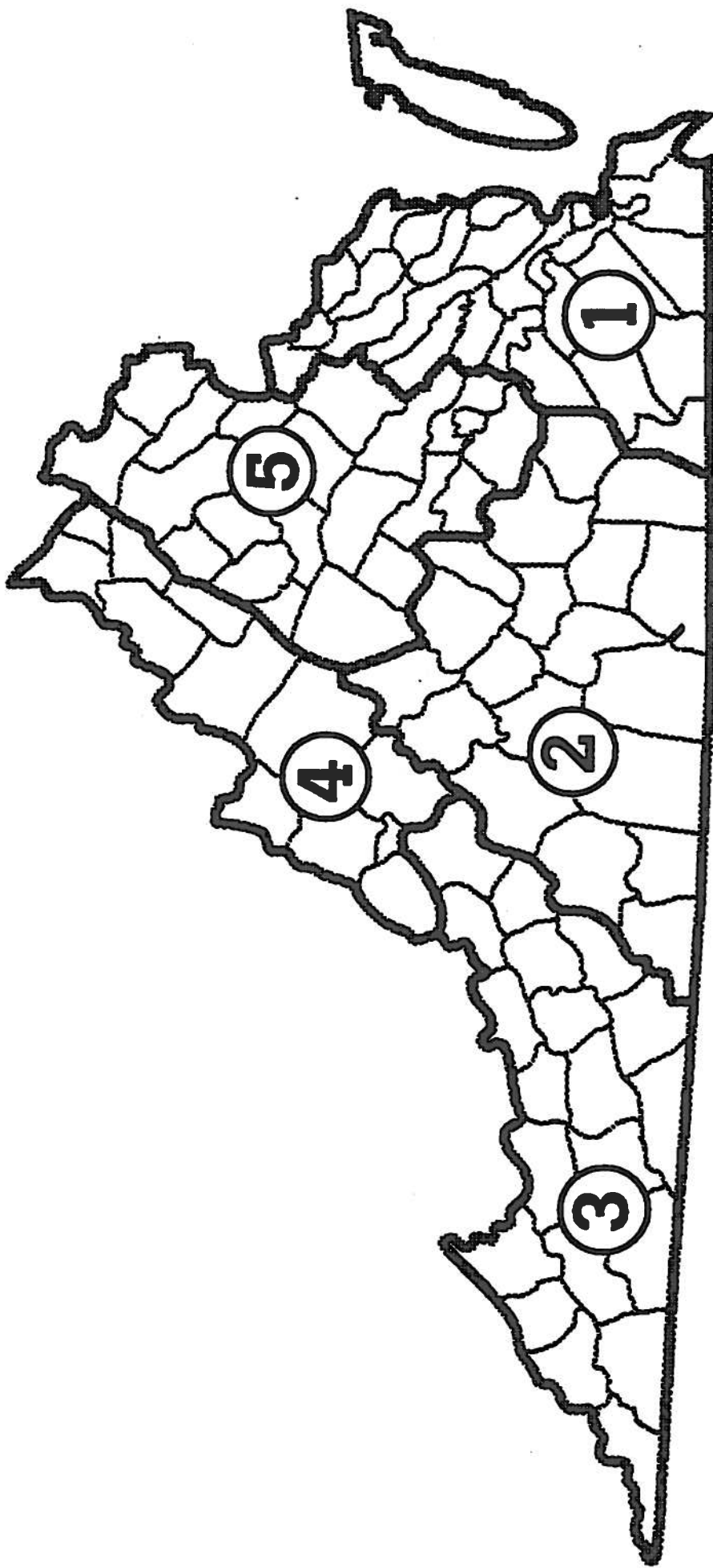


fig. 1

TABLE 3. EXPANDED STATEWIDE SUMMARY OF THE 1996-97 VA SURVEY OF GAME HARVEST BASED ON 272,986 LICENSE HOLDERS.

SPECIES	TOTAL HARVEST	AVERAGE DAILY KILL	AVERAGE SEASONAL HARVEST	PERCENT SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS	TOTAL MAN-DAYS	AVERAGE SEASONAL DAYS HUNTING	TOTAL HUNTERS	PERCENT TOTAL LICENSEES
DOVE	1,023,547	4.065	16.11	87.0	247,265	3.96	62,394	22.9
QUAIL	135,588	0.947	5.71	55.0	134,433	6.03	22,305	8.2
WOODCOCK	8,741	0.195	1.17	48.6	21,099	6.00	3,517	1.3
RUFFED GROUSE	46,519	0.380	1.74	54.7	113,836	4.59	24,817	9.1
CROW	203,961	2.046	9.61	88.0	90,125	4.70	19,190	7.0
RABBIT	494,372	1.168	6.97	79.6	395,965	5.96	66,413	24.3
TOTAL SQUIRREL	1,385,427	1.436	11.57	91.0	900,341	8.06	111,726	40.9
GRAY SQUIRREL	1,228,588	1.690	10.44	90.2	674,678	6.18	109,214	40.0
FOX SQUIRREL	156,839	0.613	4.34	75.1	225,663	7.09	31,850	11.7
GROUNDHOG/ WOODCHUCK	463,755	0.929	8.62	89.1	392,750	9.29	42,299	15.5
TOTAL DEER	333,973	0.087	1.40	58.9	3,717,211	16.22	229,180	84.0
BUCK	192,406	0.050	0.81	46.6	---	---	---	---
DOE	141,567	0.037	0.60	36.9	---	---	---	---
ARCHERY	37,477	0.046	0.43	28.8	685,831	9.48	72,341	26.5
BUCK	20,396	0.024	0.23	18.9	---	---	---	---
DOE	17,080	0.022	0.21	16.5	---	---	---	---
MUZZLELOADER	70,733	0.087	0.59	39.3	765,808	6.81	112,430	41.2
BUCK	49,232	0.060	0.41	31.6	---	---	---	---
DOE	21,501	0.026	0.18	14.7	---	---	---	---
BUN	225,764	0.095	0.98	50.6	2,265,573	10.30	220,037	80.6
BUCK	122,778	0.052	0.53	37.6	---	---	---	---
DOE	102,985	0.043	0.45	31.1	---	---	---	---
TURKEY LY 96-97	49,332	0.071	0.40	28.6	813,934	7.26	112,128	41.1
SPRING 1996 *	24,280	0.056	0.32	25.0	400,195	5.62	71,229	24.4
FALL 1996	30,343	0.060	0.30	26.1	430,026	5.00	86,005	31.5
SPRING 1997	18,989	0.045	0.25	20.4	383,909	5.58	68,824	25.2
BEAR	804	0.006	0.04	4.3	108,310	6.61	16,377	6.0
TOTAL DUCKS	224,859	1.693	11.92	87.0	130,113	7.04	18,487	6.8
MALLARD	86,709	0.659	4.64	67.9	---	---	---	---
WOOD	45,816	0.341	2.40	52.7	---	---	---	---
BLACK	20,095	0.154	1.08	35.9	---	---	---	---
ALL OTHERS	72,240	0.539	3.79	41.3	---	---	---	---
TOTAL GEESE	49,634	0.930	4.25	65.2	52,849	4.57	11,554	4.2
SEPT.	19,190	0.931	2.63	54.2	20,396	2.82	7,234	2.6
NOV - MARCH	30,443	0.926	3.65	62.2	32,453	3.94	8,239	3.0
RED FOX	19,190	0.181	1.24	60.0	68,925	6.86	10,047	3.7
GRAY FOX	21,501	0.239	1.75	66.3	67,820	7.34	9,244	3.4
COTE	2,009	0.063	0.29	20.6	15,875	4.65	3,416	1.3
COON	140,562	0.555	8.66	84.1	216,219	15.59	13,865	5.1
WEAT	2,713	0.026	0.24	20.0	46,921	9.34	5,024	1.8
* 302,402 TOTAL LICENSES 1995-96								

TABLE 4. EXPANDED STATEWIDE ESTIMATES OF TOTAL HARVEST (WITH STD ERRORS) FOR VIRGINIA GAME SPECIES DURING 1996-97.

SPECIES	TOTAL HARVEST	STANDARD ERROR		95% CONFIDENCE INTERVAL	
		SE	AS % OF TOTAL *	LOWER LIMIT	UPPER LIMIT
DOVE	1,023,547	56,328	5.5	910,891	1,136,202
QUAIL	135,588	18,553	13.7	98,483	172,694
WOODCOCK	8,741	2,128	24.3	4,486	12,997
RUFFED GROUSE	46,519	5,011	10.8	36,498	56,541
CROW	203,961	29,252	14.3	145,457	262,465
RABBIT	494,372	30,140	6.1	434,093	554,652
TOTAL SQUIRREL	1,385,427	52,978	3.8	1,279,470	1,491,383
GRAY SQUIRREL	1,228,588	46,701	3.8	1,135,186	1,321,990
FOX SQUIRREL	156,839	13,614	8.7	129,610	184,068
GROUNDHOG/ WOODCHUCK	463,755	36,747	7.9	390,260	537,249
TOTAL DEER	333,973	9,548	2.9	314,877	353,069
BUCK	192,406	6,160	3.2	180,086	204,726
DOE	141,567	5,130	3.6	131,307	151,827
ARCHERY	37,477	2,831	7.6	31,814	43,139
BUCK	20,396	1,974	9.7	16,448	24,344
DOE	17,080	1,587	9.3	13,907	20,254
MUZZLELOADER	70,733	3,620	5.1	63,494	77,973
BUCK	49,232	2,688	5.5	43,855	54,609
DOE	21,501	1,709	7.9	18,083	24,919
HUN	225,764	6,979	3.1	211,806	239,721
BUCK	122,778	4,406	3.6	113,966	131,590
DOE	102,985	4,005	3.9	94,975	110,995
TURKEY LY 96-97	49,332	2,704	5.5	43,923	54,741
SPRING 1996 **	24,280	1,865	7.7	20,550	28,010
FALL 1996	30,343	1,887	6.2	26,570	34,116
SPRING 1997	18,989	1,601	8.4	15,787	22,192
BEAR	804	284	35.3	236	1,371
TOTAL DUCKS	224,859	28,315	12.6	168,229	281,490
MALLARD	86,709	12,388	14.3	61,932	111,485
WOOD	45,816	5,741	12.5	34,334	57,298
BLACK	20,095	3,389	16.9	13,317	26,872
ALL OTHERS	72,240	14,160	19.6	43,920	100,560
TOTAL GEESE	49,634	8,577	17.3	32,480	66,787
SEPT.	19,190	4,882	25.4	9,427	28,953
NOV - MARCH	30,443	5,281	17.3	19,882	41,005
RED FOX	19,190	3,074	16.0	13,043	25,338
GRAY FOX	21,501	3,517	16.4	14,466	28,536
COYOTE	2,009	618	30.8	773	3,246
WOLF	140,562	21,099	15.0	98,365	182,759
WOLF	2,713	657	24.2	1,399	4,026
* 100 (SE/TOTAL HARVEST)					
** 202 402 TOTAL LICENSES 1995-96					

REGION	STATISTIC	TOTAL HARVEST	AVERAGE DAILY KILL	AVERAGE SEASONAL HARVEST	PERCENT SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS	TOTAL MAN-DAYS	AVERAGE SEASONAL DAYS HUNTING	TOTAL HUNTERS	PERCENT HUNTERS PER REGION
1	ESTIMATE	66,614	1.089	7.92	62.3	56,265	7.27	7,736	25.5
	(SE)	14,681	0.240	1.67	5.6	13,173	1.50	869	2.5
	N	2,717	77	77	77	2,717	77	2,717	302
2	ESTIMATE	52,868	0.750	5.20	52.2	62,695	6.93	9,043	29.8
	(SE)	10,557	0.148	1.01	5.3	11,594	1.07	937	2.6
	N	2,717	90	90	90	2,717	90	2,717	302
3	ESTIMATE	14,066	0.474	2.81	30.6	21,401	5.92	3,617	11.9
	(SE)	5,217	0.209	1.29	7.8	5,764	1.27	599	1.9
	N	2,717	36	36	36	2,717	36	2,717	302
4	ESTIMATE	17,784	0.539	3.07	40.0	25,721	5.69	4,521	14.9
	(SE)	5,941	0.205	1.18	7.4	6,063	1.06	669	2.1
	N	2,717	45	45	45	2,717	45	2,717	302
5	ESTIMATE	30,443	0.782	4.70	48.1	32,654	6.02	5,426	17.9
	(SE)	7,536	0.169	1.19	6.9	7,586	1.15	731	2.2
	N	2,717	54	54	54	2,717	54	2,717	302
<div>PERCENT OF TOTAL LICENSEES</div>									
STATEWIDE	ESTIMATE	135,588	0.947	5.71	55.0	134,433	6.03	22,305	8.2
	(SE)	18,553	0.087	0.74	2.9	17,538	0.69	1,435	0.5
	N	2,717	302	302	302	2,717	302	2,717	2,717
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REGION	STATISTIC	TOTAL HARVEST	AVERAGE DAILY KILL	AVERAGE SEASONAL HARVEST	PERCENT SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS	TOTAL MAN-DAYS	AVERAGE SEASONAL DAYS HUNTING	TOTAL HUNTERS	PERCENT HUNTERS PER REGION
1	ESTIMATE	47,022	2.160	8.22	82.4	19,492	3.80	5,124	17.8
	(SE)	9,474	0.326	1.41	5.4	3,604	0.47	711	2.3
	N	2,717	51	51	51	2,717	51	2,717	287
2	ESTIMATE	55,662	1.960	6.97	88.6	25,018	3.56	7,033	24.4
	(SE)	10,309	0.339	1.19	3.8	4,117	0.41	830	2.5
	N	2,717	70	70	70	2,717	70	2,717	287
3	ESTIMATE	52,246	2.000	7.93	85.0	23,913	3.97	6,028	20.9
	(SE)	11,317	0.337	1.57	4.6	4,864	0.63	770	2.4
	N	2,717	60	60	60	2,717	60	2,717	287
4	ESTIMATE	27,630	1.066	5.48	79.5	22,707	5.14	4,421	15.3
	(SE)	5,718	0.289	0.96	6.2	7,136	1.44	661	2.1
	N	2,717	44	44	44	2,717	44	2,717	287
5	ESTIMATE	82,891	2.544	11.08	87.1	27,128	4.35	6,229	21.6
	(SE)	24,025	0.631	3.48	4.3	5,828	0.77	782	2.4
	N	2,717	62	62	62	2,717	62	2,717	287
PERCENT OF TOTAL LICENSEES									
STATEWIDE	ESTIMATE	203,961	2.046	9.61	88.0	90,125	4.70	19,190	7.0
	(SE)	29,252	0.180	1.33	1.9	11,060	0.48	1,339	0.5
	N	2,717	287	287	287	2,717	287	2,717	2,717

REGION	STATISTIC	TOTAL HARVEST	AVERAGE DAILY KILL	AVERAGE SEASONAL HARVEST	PERCENT SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS	TOTAL MAN-DAYS	AVERAGE SEASONAL DAYS HUNTING	TOTAL HUNTERS	PERCENT HUNTERS PER REGION
1	ESTIMATE	288,861	1.699	9.40	86.4	142,973	5.54	25,822	17.7
	(SE)	24,227	0.106	0.65	2.1	12,137	0.34	1,533	1.0
	N	2,717	257	257	257	2,717	257	2,717	1,455
2	ESTIMATE	428,820	1.877	10.40	90.4	196,425	5.54	35,467	24.3
	(SE)	29,287	0.105	0.56	1.6	15,143	0.33	1,761	1.1
	N	2,717	353	353	353	2,717	353	2,717	1,455
3	ESTIMATE	356,077	1.482	10.09	88.4	205,870	6.81	30,242	20.7
	(SE)	26,760	0.090	0.61	1.9	17,070	0.43	1,644	1.1
	N	2,717	301	301	301	2,717	301	2,717	1,455
4	ESTIMATE	349,848	1.626	10.62	85.6	182,459	6.53	27,932	19.1
	(SE)	29,107	0.112	0.74	2.1	15,887	0.43	1,588	1.0
	N	2,717	278	278	278	2,717	278	2,717	1,455
5	ESTIMATE	308,554	1.951	9.86	86.8	135,036	5.05	26,726	18.3
	(SE)	24,880	0.110	0.64	2.1	11,620	0.32	1,557	1.0
	N	2,717	266	266	266	2,717	266	2,717	1,455
									PERCENT OF TOTAL LICENSEES
STATEWIDE	ESTIMATE	1,228,588	1.690	10.44	90.2	674,678	6.18	109,214	40.0
	(SE)	46,701	0.040	0.33	0.8	3,003	0.21	2,566	0.9
	N	2,717	1,455	1,455	1,455	2,717	1,455	2,717	2,717

REGION	STATISTIC	TOTAL HARVEST	AVERAGE DAILY KILL	AVERAGE SEASONAL HARVEST	PERCENT SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS	TOTAL MAN-DAYS	AVERAGE SEASONAL DAYS HUNTING	TOTAL HUNTERS	PERCENT HUNTERS PER REGION
1	ESTIMATE	4,220	0.028	0.18	13.4	119,563	6.40	18,688	13.2
	(SE)	849	0.006	0.04	2.5	10,521	0.34	1,323	0.9
	N	2,717	186	186	186	2,717	186	2,717	1,407
2	ESTIMATE	7,636	0.030	0.20	16.0	217,525	6.79	32,051	22.7
	(SE)	1,024	0.004	0.03	2.1	14,035	0.25	1,686	1.1
	N	2,717	319	319	319	2,717	319	2,717	1,407
3	ESTIMATE	5,526	0.018	0.13	10.1	250,681	7.23	34,663	24.5
	(SE)	898	0.003	0.02	1.6	15,887	0.28	1,744	1.1
	N	2,717	345	345	345	2,717	345	2,717	1,407
4	ESTIMATE	5,325	0.019	0.14	11.1	226,567	7.35	30,845	21.8
	(SE)	864	0.003	0.03	1.8	16,943	0.38	1,658	1.1
	N	2,717	307	307	307	2,717	307	2,717	1,407
5	ESTIMATE	6,028	0.034	0.20	17.6	150,408	5.99	25,118	17.8
	(SE)	868	0.005	0.03	2.4	10,817	0.24	1,514	1.0
	N	2,717	250	250	250	2,717	250	2,717	1,407
									PERCENT OF TOTAL LICENSEES
STATEWIDE	ESTIMATE	21,501	0.026	0.18	14.7	765,808	6.81	112,430	41.2
	(SE)	1,709	0.002	0.01	0.9	25,100	0.16	2,578	0.9
	N	2,717	1,407	1,407	1,407	2,717	1,407	2,717	2,717

REGION	STATISTIC	TOTAL HARVEST	AVERAGE DAILY KILL	AVERAGE SEASONAL HARVEST	PERCENT SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS	TOTAL MAN-DAYS	AVERAGE SEASONAL DAYS HUNTING	TOTAL HUNTERS	PERCENT HUNTERS PER REGION
1	ESTIMATE	34,764	0.049	0.63	87.8	650,766	12.72	34,663	17.0
	(SE)	2,659	0.005	0.04	1.8	34,430	0.44	1,744	0.8
	N	2,717	345	345	345	2,717	345	2,717	2,026
2	ESTIMATE	41,496	0.050	0.53	78.8	763,999	10.63	55,361	27.2
	(SE)	2,570	0.004	0.03	1.7	33,631	0.32	2,106	1.0
	N	2,717	551	551	551	2,717	551	2,717	2,026
3	ESTIMATE	26,123	0.055	0.42	43.9	421,988	7.62	38,883	19.1
	(SE)	2,414	0.007	0.04	2.5	21,115	0.25	1,831	0.9
	N	2,717	387	387	387	2,717	387	2,717	2,026
4	ESTIMATE	24,716	0.053	0.42	47.7	418,170	7.90	36,472	17.9
	(SE)	1,901	0.006	0.03	2.6	21,124	0.25	1,782	0.9
	N	2,717	363	363	363	2,717	363	2,717	2,026
5	ESTIMATE	32,654	0.048	0.54	53.9	619,519	11.33	38,180	18.8
	(SE)	2,374	0.004	0.04	2.6	31,369	0.38	1,817	0.9
	N	2,717	380	380	380	2,717	380	2,717	2,026
									PERCENT OF
									TOTAL
									LICENSEES
STATEWIDE	ESTIMATE	122,778	0.052	0.53	37.6	2,265,573	10.30	220,037	80.6
	(SE)	4,406	0.002	0.02	1.1	4,406	0.17	2,071	0.8
	N	2,717	2,026	2,026	2,026	2,717	2,026	2,717	2,717

TABLE 23. EXPANDED STATEWIDE SUMMARY OF TOTAL DEER HUNTING IN VIRGINIA DURING THE 1996-97 HUNTING SEASON

	STATISTIC	TOTAL HARVEST	AVERAGE DAILY KILL	AVERAGE SEASONAL HARVEST	PERCENT SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS	TOTAL MAN DAYS	AVERAGE SEASONAL DAYS HUNTING	TOTAL HUNTERS	PERCENT OF TOTAL LICENSEES
	ESTIMATE	333,973	0.087	1.40	58.9	3,717,211	16.22	229,180	84.0
STATEWIDE	(SE)	9,548	0.002	0.04	1.0	74,031	0.27	1,923	0.7
	N	2,717	2,281	2,281	2,281	2,717	2,281	2,717	2,717

TABLE 24. EXPANDED STATEWIDE SUMMARY OF TOTAL DEER (BUCKS) HUNTING IN VIRGINIA DURING THE 1996-97 HUNTING SEASON

	STATISTIC	TOTAL HARVEST	AVERAGE DAILY KILL	AVERAGE SEASONAL HARVEST	PERCENT SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS	TOTAL MAN-DAYS	AVERAGE SEASONAL DAYS HUNTING	TOTAL HUNTERS	PERCENT OF TOTAL LICENSEES
	ESTIMATE	192,406	0.050	0.81	46.6	3,717,211	16.22	229,180	84.0
STATEWIDE	(SE)	6,160	0.002	0.03	1.0	74,031	0.27	1,923	0.7
	N	2,717	2,281	2,281	2,281	2,717	2,281	2,717	2,717

TABLE 25. EXPANDED STATEWIDE SUMMARY OF TOTAL DEER (DOES) HUNTING IN VIRGINIA DURING THE 1996-97 HUNTING SEASON

	STATISTIC	TOTAL HARVEST	AVERAGE DAILY KILL	AVERAGE SEASONAL HARVEST	PERCENT SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS	TOTAL MAN-DAYS	AVERAGE SEASONAL DAYS HUNTING	TOTAL HUNTERS	PERCENT OF TOTAL LICENSEES
	ESTIMATE	141,567	0.037	0.60	36.9	3,717,211	16.22	229,180	84.0
STATEWIDE	(SE)	5,130	0.001	0.02	1.0	74,031	0.27	1,923	0.7
	N	2,717	2,281	2,281	2,281	2,717	2,281	2,717	2,717

REGION	STATISTIC	TOTAL HARVEST	AVERAGE DAILY KILL	AVERAGE SEASONAL HARVEST	PERCENT SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS	TOTAL MAN-DAYS	AVERAGE SEASONAL DAYS HUNTING	TOTAL HUNTERS	PERCENT HUNTERS PER REGION
1	ESTIMATE	0	0.000	0.00	0.0	26,123	8.97	2,914	10.9
	(SE)	0	0.000	0.00	0.0	8,175	2.30	538	1.9
	N	2,717	29	29	29	2,717	29	2,717	267
2	ESTIMATE	201	0.005	0.04	4.0	38,984	7.76	5,024	18.7
	(SE)	142	0.004	0.03	2.8	9,379	1.53	704	2.4
	N	2,717	50	50	50	2,717	50	2,717	267
3	ESTIMATE	201	0.003	0.02	2.0	36,974	7.36	5,024	18.7
	(SE)	142	0.003	0.02	2.0	8,620	1.38	704	2.4
	N	2,717	50	50	50	2,717	50	2,717	267
4	ESTIMATE	402	0.006	0.04	4.5	68,121	7.62	8,942	33.3
	(SE)	201	0.003	0.02	2.2	11,403	1.00	932	2.9
	N	2,717	89	89	89	2,717	89	2,717	267
5	ESTIMATE	0	0.000	0.00	0.0	40,993	8.33	4,923	18.4
	(SE)	0	0.000	0.00	0.0	9,179	1.46	697	2.4
	N	2,717	49	49	49	2,717	49	2,717	267
PERCENT OF TOTAL LICENSEES									
STATEWIDE	ESTIMATE	804	0.006	0.04	4.3	108,310	6.61	16,377	6.0
	(SE)	284	0.002	0.02	1.2	13,216	0.63	1,244	0.5
	N	2,717	267	267	267	2,717	267	2,717	2,717

REGION	STATISTIC	TOTAL HARVEST	AVERAGE DAILY KILL	AVERAGE SEASONAL HARVEST	PERCENT SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS	TOTAL MAN-DAYS	AVERAGE SEASONAL DAYS HUNTING	TOTAL HUNTERS	PERCENT HUNTERS PER REGION
1	ESTIMATE	162,867	1.792	14.79	86.0	88,718	8.25	10,751	52.5
	(SE)	26,148	0.150	1.98	3.4	11,897	0.79	1,019	3.5
	N	2,717	107	107	107	2,717	107	2,717	204
2	ESTIMATE	30,142	1.598	8.67	81.8	17,985	5.42	3,316	16.2
	(SE)	8,306	0.307	2.02	6.8	3,945	0.74	574	2.6
	N	2,717	33	33	33	2,717	33	2,717	204
3	ESTIMATE	14,569	2.175	8.56	81.3	6,330	3.94	1,608	7.8
	(SE)	6,338	0.642	3.41	10.1	1,879	0.65	401	1.9
	N	2,717	16	16	16	2,717	16	2,717	204
4	ESTIMATE	9,344	2.576	10.63	75.0	3,316	4.13	804	3.9
	(SE)	5,604	1.174	6.25	16.4	1,402	1.03	284	1.4
	N	2,717	8	8	8	2,717	8	2,717	204
5	ESTIMATE	40,099	1.802	9.78	85.0	21,803	5.43	4,019	19.6
	(SE)	10,366	0.266	2.10	5.7	4,313	0.66	631	2.8
	N	2,717	40	40	40	2,717	40	2,717	204
<div>PERCENT OF TOTAL LICENSEES</div>									
STATEWIDE	ESTIMATE	224,859	1.693	11.92	87.0	130,113	7.04	18,487	6.8
	(SE)	28,315	0.102	1.27	2.4	13,169	0.51	1,316	0.5
	N	2,717	204	204	204	2,717	204	2,717	2,717

REGION	STATISTIC	TOTAL HARVEST	AVERAGE DAILY KILL	AVERAGE SEASONAL HARVEST	PERCENT SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS	TOTAL MAN-DAYS	AVERAGE SEASONAL DAYS HUNTING	TOTAL HUNTERS	PERCENT HUNTERS PER REGION
1	ESTIMATE	60,284	0.669	5.52	69.2	88,718	8.25	10,751	52.5
	(SE)	11,155	0.088	0.90	4.5	11,897	0.79	1,019	3.5
	N	2,717	107	107	107	2,717	107	2,717	204
2	ESTIMATE	12,660	0.687	3.73	69.7	17,985	5.42	3,316	16.2
	(SE)	4,199	0.201	1.10	8.1	3,945	0.74	574	2.6
	N	2,717	33	33	33	2,717	33	2,717	204
3	ESTIMATE	7,937	1.206	4.75	68.8	6,330	3.94	1,608	7.8
	(SE)	3,893	0.589	2.18	12.0	1,879	0.65	401	1.9
	N	2,717	16	16	16	2,717	16	2,717	204
4	ESTIMATE	5,627	1.606	6.63	75.0	3,316	4.13	804	3.9
	(SE)	3,630	0.804	4.12	16.4	1,402	1.03	284	1.4
	N	2,717	8	8	8	2,717	8	2,717	204
5	ESTIMATE	19,492	0.880	4.78	57.5	21,803	5.43	4,019	19.6
	(SE)	6,004	0.190	1.31	7.9	4,313	0.66	631	2.8
	N	2,717	40	40	40	2,717	40	2,717	204
									PERCENT OF TOTAL
									LICENSEES
STATEWIDE	ESTIMATE	86,709	0.659	4.64	67.9	130,113	7.04	18,487	6.8
	(SE)	12,388	0.060	0.58	3.3	13,169	0.51	1,316	0.5
	N	2,717	204	204	204	2,717	204	2,717	2,717

REGION	STATISTIC	TOTAL HARVEST	AVERAGE DAILY KILL	AVERAGE SEASONAL HARVEST	PERCENT SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS	TOTAL MAN-DAYS	AVERAGE SEASONAL DAYS HUNTING	TOTAL HUNTERS	PERCENT HUNTERS PER REGION
1	ESTIMATE	25,621	0.273	2.25	43.9	88,718	8.25	10,751	52.5
	(SE)	4,502	0.038	0.35	4.8	11,897	0.79	1,019	3.5
	N	2,717	107	107	107	2,717	107	2,717	204
2	ESTIMATE	8,038	0.425	2.30	57.6	17,985	5.42	3,316	16.2
	(SE)	2,237	0.082	0.55	8.7	3,945	0.74	574	2.6
	N	2,717	33	33	33	2,717	33	2,717	204
3	ESTIMATE	3,416	0.476	1.88	50.0	6,330	3.94	1,608	7.8
	(SE)	1,309	0.145	0.66	12.9	1,879	0.65	401	1.9
	N	2,717	16	16	16	2,717	16	2,717	204
4	ESTIMATE	1,809	0.424	1.75	37.5	3,316	4.13	804	3.9
	(SE)	875	0.173	0.88	18.3	1,402	1.03	284	1.4
	N	2,717	8	8	8	2,717	8	2,717	204
5	ESTIMATE	12,559	0.558	3.03	70.0	21,803	5.43	4,019	19.6
	(SE)	2,841	0.071	0.53	7.3	4,313	0.66	631	2.8
	N	2,717	40	40	40	2,717	40	2,717	204
<div>PERCENT OF TOTAL LICENSEES</div>									
STATEWIDE	ESTIMATE	45,816	0.341	2.40	52.7	130,113	7.04	18,487	6.8
	(SE)	5,741	0.029	0.25	3.5	13,169	0.51	1,316	0.5
	N	2,717	204	204	204	2,717	204	2,717	2,717

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REGION	STATISTIC	TOTAL HARVEST	AVERAGE DAILY KILL	AVERAGE SEASONAL HARVEST	PERCENT SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS	TOTAL MAN-DAYS	AVERAGE SEASONAL DAYS HUNTING	TOTAL HUNTERS	PERCENT HUNTERS PER REGION
1	ESTIMATE	60,686	0.666	5.50	52.3	88,718	8.25	10,751	52.5
	(SE)	13,801	0.115	1.17	5	11,897	0.79	1,019	3.5
	N	2,717	107	107	107	2,717	107	2,717	204
2	ESTIMATE	6,832	0.346	1.88	33.3	17,985	5.42	3,316	16.2
	(SE)	2,594	0.109	0.71	8.3	3,945	0.74	574	2.6
	N	2,717	33	33	33	2,717	33	2,717	204
3	ESTIMATE	1,708	0.254	1.00	25.0	6,330	3.94	1,608	7.8
	(SE)	904	0.106	0.52	11.2	1,879	0.65	401	1.9
	N	2,717	16	16	16	2,717	16	2,717	204
4	ESTIMATE	703	0.182	0.75	12.5	3,316	4.13	804	3.9
	(SE)	611	0.162	0.75	12.5	1,402	1.03	284	1.4
	N	2,717	8	8	8	2,717	8	2,717	204
5	ESTIMATE	5,124	0.230	1.25	20.0	21,803	5.43	4,019	19.6
	(SE)	2,035	0.074	0.47	6.4	4,313	0.66	631	2.8
	N	2,717	40	40	40	2,717	40	2,717	204
									PERCENT OF
									TOTAL
									LICENSEES
STATEWIDE	ESTIMATE	72,240	0.539	3.79	41.3	130,113	7.04	18,487	6.8
	(SE)	14,160	0.075	0.71	3.5	13,169	0.51	1,316	0.5
	N	2,717	204	204	204	2,717	204	2,717	2,717

REGION	STATISTIC	TOTAL HARVEST	AVERAGE DAILY KILL	AVERAGE SEASONAL HARVEST	PERCENT SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS	TOTAL MAN-DAYS	AVERAGE SEASONAL DAYS HUNTING	TOTAL HUNTERS	PERCENT HUNTERS PER REGION
1	ESTIMATE	5,727	0.775	1.77	54.8	7,134	2.29	3,115	29.8
	(SE)	1,723	0.230	0.46	9.1	1,636	0.34	556	4.5
	N	2,717	31	31	31	2,717	31	2,717	104
2	ESTIMATE	1,708	0.536	1.00	40.0	2,813	1.87	1,507	14.4
	(SE)	822	0.263	0.49	13.1	789	0.22	388	0.0
	N	2,717	15	15	15	2,717	15	2,717	104
3	ESTIMATE	402	0.062	0.14	14.3	3,215	2.29	1,407	13.5
	(SE)	201	0.046	0.10	9.7	1,144	0.56	375	3.4
	N	2,717	14	14	14	2,717	14	2,717	104
4	ESTIMATE	804	0.250	0.60	40.0	2,411	2.40	1,005	9.6
	(SE)	376	0.119	0.31	16.3	886	0.48	317	2.9
	N	2,717	10	10	10	2,717	10	2,717	104
5	ESTIMATE	12,157	1.102	3.50	52.9	10,851	3.18	3,416	32.7
	(SE)	4,498	0.316	1.19	8.7	2,810	0.63	582	4.6
	N	2,717	34	34	34	2,717	34	2,717	104

REGION	STATISTIC	TOTAL HARVEST	AVERAGE DAILY KILL	AVERAGE SEASONAL HARVEST	PERCENT SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS	TOTAL MAN-DAYS	AVERAGE SEASONAL DAYS HUNTING	TOTAL HUNTERS	PERCENT HUNTERS PER REGION
1	ESTIMATE	603	0.027	0.14	14.3	3,718	5.29	703	13.0
	(SE)	426	0.033	0.14	14.3	2,184	2.57	266	4.6
	N	2,717	7	7	7	2,717	7	2,717	54
2	ESTIMATE	502	0.000	0.00	0.0	4,421	5.50	804	14.8
	(SE)	414	0.000	0.00	0.0	2,334	2.31	284	4.9
	N	2,717	8	8	8	2,717	8	2,717	54
3	ESTIMATE	1,407	0.044	0.22	17.4	11,454	4.96	2,311	42.6
	(SE)	531	0.024	0.11	8.1	3,180	0.93	480	6.8
	N	2,717	23	23	23	2,717	23	2,717	54
4	ESTIMATE	904	0.103	0.40	20.0	3,918	3.90	1,005	18.5
	(SE)	502	0.087	0.27	13.3	2,128	1.82	317	5.3
	N	2,717	10	10	10	2,717	10	2,717	54
5	ESTIMATE	603	0.000	0.00	0.0	4,019	6.67	603	11.1
	(SE)	426	0.000	0.00	0.0	2,342	3.04	246	4.3
	N	2,717	6	6	6	2,717	6	2,717	54
									PERCENT OF TOTAL LICENSEES
STATEWIDE	ESTIMATE	2,009	0.063	0.29	20.6	15,875	4.65	3,416	1.3
	(SE)	618	0.017	0.11	5.6	3,638	0.72	582	0.2
	N	2,717	54	54	54	2,717	54	2,717	2,717

REGION	STATISTIC	TOTAL HARVEST	AVERAGE DAILY KILL	AVERAGE SEASONAL HARVEST	PERCENT SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS	TOTAL MAN-DAYS	AVERAGE SEASONAL DAYS HUNTING	TOTAL HUNTERS	PERCENT HUNTERS PER REGION
1	ESTIMATE	1,407	0.009	0.13	12.5	10,851	13.50	804	9.8
	(SE)	512	0.011	0.13	12.5	6,122	6.35	284	3.3
	N	2,717	8	8	8	2,717	8	2,717	82
2	ESTIMATE	1,608	0.018	0.17	16.7	22,004	9.13	2,411	29.3
	(SE)	531	0.011	0.08	7.8	7,186	2.38	490	5.1
	N	2,717	24	24	24	2,717	24	2,717	82
3	ESTIMATE	1,909	0.034	0.27	22.7	17,583	7.95	2,210	26.8
	(SE)	576	0.020	0.12	9.1	6,506	2.47	469	4.9
	N	2,717	22	22	22	2,717	22	2,717	82
4	ESTIMATE	1,608	0.013	0.19	12.5	22,607	14.06	1,608	19.5
	(SE)	550	0.008	0.14	8.5	9,204	4.67	401	4.4
	N	2,717	16	16	16	2,717	16	2,717	82
5	ESTIMATE	1,407	0.012	0.17	16.7	17,281	14.33	1,206	14.6
	(SE)	512	0.008	0.11	11.2	7,647	5.03	347	3.9
	N	2,717	12	12	12	2,717	12	2,717	82
									PERCENT OF TOTAL LICENSEES
STATEWIDE	ESTIMATE	2,713	0.026	0.24	20.0	46,921	9.34	5,024	1.8
	(SE)	657	0.005	0.07	4.4	11,152	1.81	704	0.3
	N	2,717	82	82	82	2,717	82	2,717	2,717

TABLE 42. EXPANDED STATEWIDE SUMMARY OF TOTAL SQUIRREL HUNTING IN VIRGINIA DURING THE 1996-97 HUNTING SEASON									
	STATISTIC	TOTAL HARVEST	AVERAGE DAILY KILL	AVERAGE SEASONAL HARVEST	PERCENT SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS	TOTAL MAN-DAYS	AVERAGE SEASONAL DAYS HUNTING	TOTAL HUNTERS	PERCENT OF TOTAL LICENSEES
	ESTIMATE	1,385,427	1.436	11.57	91.0	900,341	8.06	111,726	40.9
STATEWIDE	(SE)	52,978	0.053	0.38	0.9	43,163	0.34	2,576	0.9
	N	2,717	1,112	1,112	1,112	2,717	1,112	2,717	2,717
TABLE 43. EXPANDED STATEWIDE SUMMARY OF TOTAL GOOSE HUNTING IN VIRGINIA DURING THE 1996-97 HUNTING SEASON									
	STATISTIC	TOTAL HARVEST	AVERAGE DAILY KILL	AVERAGE SEASONAL HARVEST	PERCENT SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS	TOTAL MAN-DAYS	AVERAGE SEASONAL DAYS HUNTING	TOTAL HUNTERS	PERCENT OF TOTAL LICENSEES
	ESTIMATE	49,634	0.930	4.25	65.2	52,849	4.57	11,554	4.2
STATEWIDE	(SE)	8,577	0.110	0.64	4.5	6,928	0.43	1,055	0.4
	N	2,717	115	115	115	2,717	115	2,717	2,717

TABLE 44. (Q19) PERCEPTIONS OF DEER HUNTERS REGARDING OVERALL QUALITY OF GUN DEER HUNTING DURING 1996-97. *

						<u>REGIONS</u>		
	STATEWIDE		1	2	3	4	5	
	3.74		3.95	3.79	3.52	3.53	4.05	

* MEAN SCORES, WHERE 1=POOR, 4=ADEQUATE, 7=EXCELLENT

TABLE 45. (Q20) STATEWIDE AND REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF HUNTERS THAT USED A SCOPE ON A MUZZLELOADER DURING THE 1996-97 MUZZLELOADER SEASON (PCT).

						<u>REGIONS</u>		
RESPONSE	STATEWIDE		1	2	3	4	5	
YES	47.2		49.5	45.7	47.6	47.8	43.7	
NO	52.8		50.5	54.3	52.4	52.2	56.3	

TABLE 46. (Q21) MEAN NUMBER OF ANIMALS SEEN BY ARCHERY DEER HUNTERS IN 1996-97 BY REGION.

						<u>REGIONS</u>		
SPECIES	STATEWIDE		1	2	3	4	5	
BEAR	0.143		0.010	0.110	0.265	0.145	0.117	
BOBCAT	0.190		0.115	0.192	0.265	0.182	0.131	
RED FOX	1.376		1.288	0.897	0.957	1.773	2.460	
GRAY FOX	1.065		1.663	0.747	1.000	0.700	1.504	
MINK	0.104		0.510	0.021	0.032	0.091	0.022	
WEASEL	0.019		0.019	0.014	0.032	0.036	0.000	
RACCOON	1.351		2.231	1.726	1.427	0.900	0.847	
COYOTE	0.165		0.038	0.062	0.449	0.036	0.131	
RIVER OTTER	0.147		0.413	0.212	0.049	0.018	0.153	
TURKEY	13.594		10.245	18.486	16.118	10.327	12.881	
GROUSE	2.427		1.019	0.877	5.304	3.064	0.898	

TABLE 47. (Q 22) STATEWIDE AND REGIONAL SUMMARIES OF AVERAGE SEASONAL HARVEST OF BUTTON BUCKS DURING 1996-97 SEASON.

					REGIONS		
	STATEWIDE		1	2	3	4	5
	0.160		0.243	0.152	0.128	0.134	0.209

TABLE 48. (Q24) PERCEPTIONS OF FALL TURKEY HUNTERS REGARDING OVERALL QUALITY OF 1996 FALL TURKEY SEASON. *

					REGIONS		
	STATEWIDE		1	2	3	4	5
	3.725		3.857	3.877	3.641	3.460	3.822
* MEAN SCORES, WHERE 1=POOR, 4=ADEQUATE, 7=EXCELLENT							

TABLE 49. (Q25) PERCEPTIONS OF SPRING TURKEY HUNTERS REGARDING OVERALL QUALITY OF THE 1997 SPRING TURKEY SEASON.*

					REGIONS		
	STATEWIDE		1	2	3	4	5
	4.067		4.350	4.183	3.758	3.914	4.390
* MEAN SCORES, WHERE 1=POOR, 4=ADEQUATE, 7=EXCELLENT							

TABLE 50. (Q26) PERCENT OF BEAR HUNTERS UTILIZING SELECTED METHODS/SEASONS (PCT. - YES).

					REGIONS		
RESPONSE	STATEWIDE		1	2	3	4	5
BEAR ARCHERY SEASON	31.4		0.00	23.5	46.7	38.3	7.7
GUN W/O DOGS	83.6		100.0	87.0	90.5	82.8	82.4
GUN USING DOGS	45.2		0.00	40.0	33.3	40.0	62.5

TABLE 51. (Q27) HUNTER OWNERSHIP AND USE OF BOATS, 1996-97.

RESPONSE	STATEWIDE						
OWN A BOAT (PCT)	38.9						
# DAYS BOAT WAS USED TO HUNT (MEAN)	0.838						

TABLE 52. (Q28) PERCEPTIONS OF DEER (GUN) HUNTERS REGARDING THE SIZE OF THE DEER HERD, 1996-97.*

					REGIONS		
	STATEWIDE	1	2	3	4	5	
	4.104	4.478	4.240	3.815	3.558	4.458	
* MEAN SCORES, WHERE 1=LOW, 4=MODERATE, 7=HIGH							

TABLE 53. (Q29) OPINIONS OF DEER (GUN) HUNTERS REGARDING HOW TO MANAGE THE DEER HERD 1996-97, (PCT).

					REGIONS		
RESPONSE	STATEWIDE	1	2	3	4	5	
INCREASE HERD	33.1	24.3	29.3	41.4	42.5	26.9	
STABILIZE HERD	42.1	43.5	47.1	38.5	38.8	43.5	
DECREASE HERD	11.2	17.8	9.9	7.7	6.1	15.3	
NO OPINION	13.6	14.5	13.6	12.4	12.6	14.2	

TABLE 54. (Q30) PERCEPTIONS OF FALL TURKEY HUNTERS REGARDING THE SIZE OF THE TURKEY POPULATION, 1996-97.*

					REGIONS		
	STATEWIDE	1	2	3	4	5	
	4.543	4.931	4.774	4.422	4.082	4.698	
* MEAN SCORES, WHERE 1=LOW, 4=MODERATE, 7=HIGH							

TABLE 55. (Q31) OPINIONS OF FALL TURKEY HUNTERS REGARDING HOW TO MANAGE TURKEYS (PCT).

					REGIONS		
RESPONSE	STATEWIDE	1	2	3	4	5	
INCREASE POPULATIONS	45.7	42.5	41.7	51.6	44.8	46.6	
STABILIZE POPULATIONS	38.1	39.1	43.0	30.7	39.6	37.1	
DECREASE POPULATIONS	4.1	9.2	3.9	4.2	0.7	4.3	
NO OPINION	12.0	9.2	11.3	13.5	14.9	12.1	

TABLE 56. (Q33) OPINIONS OF FALL TURKEY HUNTERS REGARDING THE BAG LIMIT ON FALL (EITHER SEX) TURKEYS (PCT).

				REGIONS			
RESPONSE	STATEWIDE	1	2	3	4	5	
INCREASE THE LIMIT	21.7	27.9	26.8	19.3	13.3	20.3	
KEEP LIMIT THE SAME	66.0	62.8	63.6	65.5	70.4	68.6	
DECREASE THE LIMIT	9.0	7.0	6.5	12.2	11.9	6.8	
NO OPINION	3.3	2.3	3.0	3.0	4.4	4.2	

TABLE 57. (Q30) PERCEPTIONS OF SPRING TURKEY HUNTERS REGARDING HOW TO MANAGE THE SIZE OF THE TURKEY POPULATION 1996-97.*

				REGIONS			
	STATEWIDE	1	2	3	4	5	
	4.726	4.755	5.052	4.460	4.548	4.950	
* MEAN SCORES, WHERE 1=LOW, 4=MODERATE, 7=HIGH							

TABLE 58. (Q31) OPINIONS OF SPRING TURKEY HUNTERS REGARDING HOW TO MANAGE TURKEYS (PCT).

RESPONSE	STATEWIDE	REGIONS				
		1	2	3	4	5
INCREASE POPULATIONS	45.4	42.2	40.6	49.7	49.5	47.0
STABILIZE POPULATIONS	39.7	42.2	47.1	32.7	39.8	35.0
DECREASE POPULATIONS	4.6	7.8	4.5	4.2	1.1	6.0
NO OPINION	10.3	7.8	7.7	13.3	9.7	12.0

TABLE 59. (Q32) PERCEPTIONS OF SPRING TURKEY HUNTERS REGARDING BAG LIMIT ON SPRING (GOBBLER) TURKEYS (PCT).

RESPONSE	STATEWIDE	REGIONS				
		1	2	3	4	5
INCREASE THE LIMIT	13.8	18.8	18.7	10.1	7.5	9.9
KEEP LIMIT THE SAME	79.4	78.2	74.2	83.9	82.8	83.2
DECREASE THE LIMIT	4.9	2.0	5.2	5.4	8.6	2.0
NO OPINION	1.9	1.0	1.9	0.6	1.1	5.0

TABLE 60. (Q34) PREFERENCES OF FALL TURKEY HUNTERS (REGION 1) VS. GUN DEER HUNTERS (REGION 1) REGARDING SELECTED SEASON OPTIONS.*

PREFERENCE	FALL TURKEY HUNTERS	GUN DEER HUNTERS
2-WEEK SEASON: NO CHANGE IN CURRENT SEASON	3.642	4.008
4-WEEK SEASON: CURRENT SEASON + 2 WEEKS EARLIER	3.809	3.588
4-WEEK SEASON: CURRENT SEASON + LAST 2 WEEKS OF (GUN) DEER SEASON	3.971	3.925
4-WEEK SEASON: CURRENT SEASON + 2 WEEKS AFTER (GUN) DEER SEASON CLOSES IN JANUARY	4.290	4.070
6-WEEK SEASON: (SAME AS REST OF STATE)	4.224	4.358
* MEAN SCORES, WHERE 1=STRONGLY OPPOSE, 4=DOES NOT MATTER, 7=STRONGLY FAVOR		
NOTE: GUN DEER HUNTERS ARE NOT FALL TURKEY HUNTERS		

TABLE 61. (Q35) STATEWIDE AND REGIONAL SUMMARIES REGARDING ARCHERY HUNTER PREFERENCES FOR ARCHERY DEER SEASON OPENING DATE OPTIONS.

						<u>REGIONS</u>		
DATE		STATEWIDE	1	2	3	4	5	
2ND SAT. IN SEPT.		2.970	3.478	2.944	2.484	2.769	3.239	
3RD SAT. IN SEPT.		3.134	3.545	3.149	2.761	2.839	3.522	
4TH SAT. IN SEPT.		3.852	4.044	4.107	3.429	3.867	4.036	
1ST SATURDAY IN OCT.		5.762	5.596	5.706	5.959	5.765	5.696	
* MEAN SCORES, WHERE 1=STRONGLY OPPOSE, 7=STRONGLY FAVOR.								

TABLE 62. (Q36-37) PREFERENCES OF BEAR HUNTERS VS. DEER HUNTERS REGARDING THE REQUIREMENT AND COST OF A SEPARATE BEAR HUNTING LICENSE.*

		BEAR			BEAR			
		HUNTERS			HUNTERS		DEER	
RESPONSE		W/DOGS			WO/DOGS		HUNTERS	
REQUIRE SEPARATE BEAR LICENSE?*		3.435			1.704		3.487	
\$1.00		2.432			3.943		3.307	
\$5.00		2.400			2.235		3.119	
\$12.00		3.194			2.000		3.108	
\$25.00		2.243			1.392		2.498	
\$50.00		1.973			1.385		2.497	
* MEAN SCORES, WHERE 1=STRONGLY OPPOSE, 4=DOES NOT MATTER, 7=STRONGLY FAVOR.								
NOTE: DEER HUNTERS ARE NOT BEAR HUNTERS								

TABLE 63. (Q38) STATEWIDE AND REGIONAL SUMMARIES OF PREFERENCES OF GUN DEER HUNTERS REGARDING DEDICATING ONE DAY FOR YOUNG HUNTERS ONLY.*

DATE	STATEWIDE	REGIONS				
		1	2	3	4	5
1 SAT. BEFORE ARCHERY SEASON OPENS	3.682	3.719	3.614	4.063	3.525	3.449
1 SAT. DURING ARCHERY SEASON	2.829	2.939	2.912	2.778	2.589	2.880
LAST SAT. IN THE EARLY MUZZELOADER SEASON (SAT. IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO FIREARMS SEASON)	3.581	4.010	3.640	3.491	3.101	3.675
1 SAT. DURING THE LATE MUZZELOADER SEASON	3.437	3.458	3.531	3.495	3.193	3.380

* MEAN SCORES: 1=STRONGLY OPPOSE, 4=DOES NOT MATTER, 7=STRONGLY FAVOR.

TABLE 64. (Q39) STATEWIDE AND REGIONAL SUMMARIES OF THE NUMBER OF GUN DEER HUNTERS WHO WOULD TAKE A YOUNG HUNTER HUNTING (PCT).

RESPONSE	STATEWIDE	REGIONS				
		1	2	3	4	5
YES	65.2	66.0	60.9	69.6	65.7	65.2
NO	10.2	8.4	10.4	8.6	12.2	11.1
NOT SURE	24.6	25.7	28.8	21.7	22.1	23.7

TABLE 65. (Q40) STATEWIDE AND REGIONAL SUMMARIES OF PREFERENCES OF ALL HUNTERS REGARDING SUNDAY HUNTING. *

	STATEWIDE	REGIONS				
		1	2	3	4	5
	3.866	4.093	3.756	3.930	3.806	4.356

* MEAN SCORES: 1=STRONGLY OPPOSE, 4=DOES NOT MATTER, 7=STRONGLY FAVOR

TABLE 66. (Q41) STATEWIDE SUMMARY OF HUNTERS' ALLOCATION OF FUNDING FOR MANAGEMENT OF SELECTED SPECIES (MEAN \$).

SPECIES	ALLOCATION
TURKEYS	0.18
BEAR	0.11
SQUIRRELS	0.06
QUAIL & RABBITS	0.13
NON-GAME SPECIES	0.04
DEER	0.25
WATERFOWL	0.08
ENDANGERED SPECIES	0.15
Total	\$ 1.00

TABLE 67. (Q42) STATEWIDE SUMMARY OF NUMBER OF HUNTERS WHO CLASSIFY THEMSELVES AS A HUNTER OF A PARTICULAR SPECIES (PCT).

SPECIES	STATEWIDE
DEER	78.1
QUAIL	1.9
WATERFOWL	3.7
FALL TURKEY	1.9
RABBIT	3.1
RACCOON	1.3
SPRING TURKEY	3.5
SQUIRREL	3.0
BEAR	0.6
GROUSE	0.9
OTHER	1.9

TABLE 68. (Q43-48) SELECTED DEMOGRAPHICS OF ALL REpondENTS.

DEMOGRAPHIC	RESPONSE			
AGE (MEAN YEARS)	42.3			
MARITAL STATUS (PCT)				
NEVER MARRIED	14.8			
MARRIED	74.6			
DIVORCED	8.1			
SEPARATED	1.7			
WIDOWED	0.8			
AGE WHEN FIRST HUNTED	12.4			
GENDER (PCT)				
MALE	97.2			
FEMALE	2.8			
HAVE CHILDREN? (PCT)				
NO	25.3			
YES (CHILDREN HUNT)	41.9			
YES (CHILDREN DO NOT HUNT)	32.8			
# OF CHILDREN LIVING AT HOME (MEAN)	1.76			

TABLE 69. (Q49) RESPONSES OF HUNTERS REGARDING THE PERSON WHO TAUGHT THEM HOW TO HUNT (PCT).

PERSON	RESPONSE			
FATHER	58.4			
SPOUSE	0.9			
MOTHER	0.2			
UNCLE/AUNT	5.8			
BROTHER/SISTER	4.0			
GRANDPARENT	4.7			
FRIEND	12.1			
LEARNED ON OWN	13.9			

TABLE 70. (Q50-51) PERCEPTIONS OF HUNTERS REGARDING PARENTS' ATTITUDES TOWARD HUNTING (PCT).

ATTITUDE	FATHER	MOTHER
PERSONALLY HUNTED	64.4	4.8
DID NOT HUNT, BUT APPROVED OF HUNTING	21.5	66.6
TOLERATED MY INTEREST IN HUNTING	5.5	19.2
DISCOURAGED MY INTEREST IN HUNTING	1.1	2.6
FORBID ME TO HUNT	0.3	0.8
DO NOT KNOW	7.1	6.1

TABLE 71. (Q52) PERCEPTIONS OF HUNTERS REGARDING SPOUSE'S ATTITUDES TOWARD HUNTING (PCT).

ATTITUDE	RESPONSE
SPOUSE IS A HUNTER	7.2
DOES NOT HUNT, BUT APPROVES OF HUNTING	52.8
TOLERATES MY INTEREST IN HUNTING	22.1
DISCOURAGES MY INTEREST IN HUNTING	1.8
DO NOT KNOW	1.0
NOT MARRIED	15.2

TABLE 72. (Q53) PERCEPTIONS OF HUNTERS REGARDING CLOSEST FRIEND'S ATTITUDE TOWARD HUNTING (PCT).

ATTITUDE	RESPONSE
PERSONALLY HUNTS	85.1
DOES NOT HUNT, BUT APPROVES OF HUNTING	9.7
TOLERATES MY INTEREST IN HUNTING	2.5
DISCOURAGES MY INTEREST IN HUNTING	0.4
DO NOT KNOW	2.3

TABLE 73. (Q54-55) STATEWIDE SUMMARY OF CURRENT AND CHILDHOOD RESIDENCES OF ALL HUNTERS 1996-97 (PCT).

TYPE OF RESIDENCE	CURRENT RESIDENCE	CHILDHOOD RESIDENCE
FARM	22.9	30.4
RURAL, BUT NOT FARM	40.5	35.0
TOWN (LESS THAN 50,000 POP.)	14.0	15.4
URBAN CITY (OVER 50,000 POP.)	10.4	10.7
SUBURBAN (ADJACENT TO CITY OVER 50,000 POP.)	12.2	8.5

TABLE 74. (56-84) STATEWIDE SUMMARY OF RESPONDENTS' PERCEPTIONS OF CONSTRAINTS THAT INHIBIT THEIR ABILITY OR OPPORTUNITY TO HUNT, 1996-97.*

CONSTRAINT	RESPONSE
Q56 - I DO NOT PERCEIVE ANY BARRIERS TO MY HUNTING	3.125
Q57 - PREFER TO PARTICIPATE IN ACTIVITIES OTHER THAN HUNTING	2.622
Q58 - UNABLE TO HUNT DUE TO DISABILITY	1.744
Q59 - FAMILY ACTIVITIES LEAVE LITTLE TIME FOR HUNTING	2.466
Q60 - WHEN I HAVE FREE TIME, WOULD RATHER STAY HOME	1.794
Q61 - COST OF EQUIPMENT MAKES HUNTING TOO EXPENSIVE	2.615
Q62 - LAWS PERTAINING TO HUNTING ARE TOO CONFUSING	2.637
Q63 - WORK COMMITMENTS LEAVE LITTLE TIME FOR HUNTING	3.322
Q64 - COST OF HUNTING LICENSE IS TOO EXPENSIVE	2.937
Q65 - TRAVEL COSTS (GAS, MEALS, LODGING) MAKE HUNTING TOO EXPENSIVE	2.609
Q66 - NO OPPORTUNITIES TO HUNT NEAR HOME	2.322
Q67 - PUBLIC HUNTING LANDS ARE TOO CROWDED	3.654
Q68 - DO NOT KNOW WHERE TO GO TO HUNT	2.015
Q69 - PUBLIC HUNTING LANDS ARE TOO DANGEROUS	3.441
Q70 - DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO PRIVATE LANDS TO HUNT	2.499
Q71 - BEING ABLE TO HUNT ONLY ONE DAY OF THE WEEKEND LIMITS MY HUNTING ACTIVITY	3.416
Q72 - HUNTING REQUIRES TOO MUCH EFFORT	1.728
Q73 - NONE OF FRIENDS/FAMILY HUNTS - NO ONE TO HUNT WITH	1.729
Q74 - GAINING ACCESS TO PRIVATE LAND TO HUNT IS BECOMING MORE DIFFICULT	4.133
Q75 - DIFFICULTY FINDING A PLACE TO PURCHASE HUNTING LICENSE	1.590
Q76 - PRIVATE HUNTING LANDS ARE TOO DANGEROUS	2.257
* MEAN SCORES, WHERE 1=STRONGLY DISAGREE, 3= NO OPINION, 5=STRONGLY AGREE	

TABLE 74. (56-84) STATEWIDE SUMMARY OF RESPONDENTS' PERCEPTIONS OF CONSTRAINTS THAT INHIBIT THEIR ABILITY OR OPPORTUNITY TO HUNT 1996-97 (CONTINUED).*

CONSTRAINT	RESPONSE
Q77 - HUNTING REGULATIONS ARE CONFUSING AND COMPLICATED	2.687
Q78 - PRIVATE HUNTING LANDS ARE TOO CROWDED	2.309
Q79 - GAME POPULATIONS AND CHANCES FOR SUCCESS ARE TOO LOW TO MAKE HUNTING WORTHWHILE	2.183
Q80 - OTHER HUNTING SEASONS INTERFERE WITH FAVORITE KIND OF HUNTING	2.374
Q81 - FRIENDS/FAMILY DO NOT APPROVE OF HUNTING. SOMEWHAT EMBARRASSED TO MENTION HUNTING IN THEIR PRESENCE	1.583
Q82 - RATHER PHOTOGRAPH OR OBSERVE GAME NOW INSTEAD OF KILLING THEM	2.200
Q83 - FEEL UNSAFE WHEN HUNTING DUE TO POOR ETHICS OF OTHER HUNTERS	3.044
Q84 - BECAUSE OF POOR BEHAVIOR OF SOME HUNTERS. I AM EMBARRASSED TO BE VIEWED AS A HUNTER	2.382
* MEAN SCORES, WHERE 1=STRONGLY DISAGREE, 3= NO OPINION, 5=STRONGLY AGREE	

TABLE 75. (Q85) STATEWIDE SUMMARY OF RESPONDENTS' HISTORY OF PURCHASING VA HUNTING LICENSES (1991-1996) (PCT. - YES).

LICENSE YEAR	RESPONSE
1991-92	84.8
1992-93	87.7
1993-94	91.0
1994-95	94.0
1995-96	96.7

TABLE 74. (56-84) STATEWIDE SUMMARY OF RESPONDENTS' PERCEPTIONS OF CONSTRAINTS THAT INHIBIT THEIR ABILITY OR OPPORTUNITY TO HUNT 1996-97 (CONTINUED).*

CONSTRAINT	RESPONSE
Q77 - HUNTING REGULATIONS ARE CONFUSING AND COMPLICATED	2.687
Q78 - PRIVATE HUNTING LANDS ARE TOO CROWDED	2.309
Q79 - GAME POPULATIONS AND CHANCES FOR SUCCESS ARE TOO LOW TO MAKE HUNTING WORTHWHILE	2.183
Q80 - OTHER HUNTING SEASONS INTERFERE WITH FAVORITE KIND OF HUNTING	2.374
Q81 - FRIENDS/FAMILY DO NOT APPROVE OF HUNTING. SOMEWHAT EMBARRASSED TO MENTION HUNTING IN THEIR PRESENCE	1.583
Q82 - RATHER PHOTOGRAPH OR OBSERVE GAME NOW INSTEAD OF KILLING THEM	2.200
Q83 - FEEL UNSAFE WHEN HUNTING DUE TO POOR ETHICS OF OTHER HUNTERS	3.044
Q84 - BECAUSE OF POOR BEHAVIOR OF SOME HUNTERS. I AM EMBARRASSED TO BE VIEWED AS A HUNTER	2.382
* MEAN SCORES, WHERE 1=STRONGLY DISAGREE, 3= NO OPINION, 5=STRONGLY AGREE	

TABLE 75. (Q85) STATEWIDE SUMMARY OF RESPONDENTS' HISTORY OF PURCHASING VA HUNTING LICENSES (1991-1996) (PCT. - YES).

LICENSE YEAR	RESPONSE
1991-92	84.8
1992-93	87.7
1993-94	91.0
1994-95	94.0
1995-96	96.7

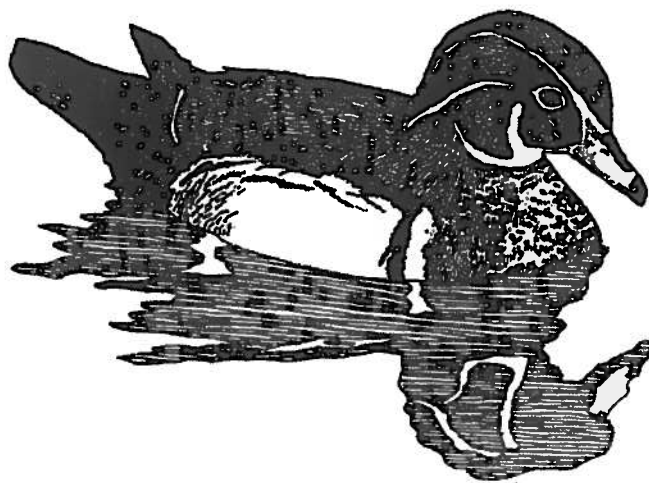
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Appendix

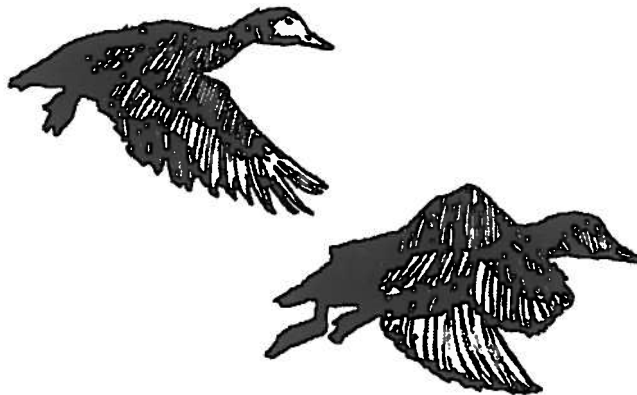
1996-97

Virginia Hunter Survey



Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
and George Mason University

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF
GAME AND INLAND FISHERIES
HUNTER QUESTIONNAIRE



Please answer each of the following questions completely. All responses to questions will be kept in strictest confidence. Results from this study will be reported only in an aggregate total, never attributed to any individual.

1. Did you purchase a Virginia resident hunting license for the 1996-97 hunting season (July 1, 1996 - June 30, 1997)?
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No (If no, do not go further. Please fold the questionnaire, place it in the return envelope, and return it as soon as possible.)
2. What type of license(s) did you purchase? (✓ Check all that apply.)
 - ☐ State resident license (allowing you to hunt statewide)
 - ☐ County/City license (allowing you to hunt only in the county/city where purchased)
 - ☐ Senior license (for residents 65 years or older)
 - ☐ Big game license (deer, bear, and turkey permit)
 - ☐ Other (please specify) _____

On the next page, we would like information regarding the number of game animals you harvested during the 1996-97 hunting season.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Put the number of animals you harvested personally in 1996-97 in each of the boxes below. Be as accurate as possible.
- Do not include game taken by anyone other than you.
- If you hunted an animal, but were unsuccessful, place a zero (0) in the space.
- If you did not hunt a particular animal, leave the space blank.

3. Small Game (Birds) Harvest:

Dove	Quail	Woodcock	Ruffed Grouse	Crow

4. Small Game (Mammals) Harvest:

Rabbit	Gray Squirrel	Fox Squirrel	Groundhog/Woodchuck

5. Big Game Harvest:

Deer						Turkey			Bear
Archery		Muzzleloader		Gun		Spring 1996	Fall 1996	Spring 1997	
Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does	Bucks	Does				

6. Waterfowl Harvest:

Ducks				Geese	
Mallard	Wood	Black	All Others	Sept. Season	Nov.-Mar. Season

7. Furbearer Harvest:

Red Fox	Gray Fox	Coyote	Raccoon	Bobcat

Next, we would like to know more about the time you spent afield. Below, **please indicate the number of days in which each species was the primary animal you hunted.** Count partial days as 1 day hunted.

8. Small Game (Birds) Days Hunted:

Dove	Quail	Woodcock	Ruffed Grouse	Crow

9. Small Game (Mammals) Days Hunted:

Rabbit	Gray Squirrel	Fox Squirrel	Groundhog/Woodchuck

10. Big Game Days Hunted:

Deer			Turkey			Bear
Archery	Muzzleloader	Gun	Spring '96	Fall, '96	Spring, '97	

11. Waterfowl Days Hunted:

Ducks	Geese	
	Sept. Season	Nov.-Mar. Season

12. Furbearer Days Hunted:

Red Fox	Gray Fox	Coyote	Raccoon	Bobcat

Using the map at the bottom of this page, indicate the region of the state where you most often hunted each species by placing the number corresponding to that region in the space provided. If you did not hunt an animal, leave the space blank.

13. Small Game (Birds) Region Hunted:

Dove	Quail	Woodcock	Ruffed Grouse	Crow

14. Small Game (Mammals) Region Hunted:

Rabbit	Gray Squirrel	Fox Squirrel	Groundhog/Woodchuck

15. Big Game Region Hunted:

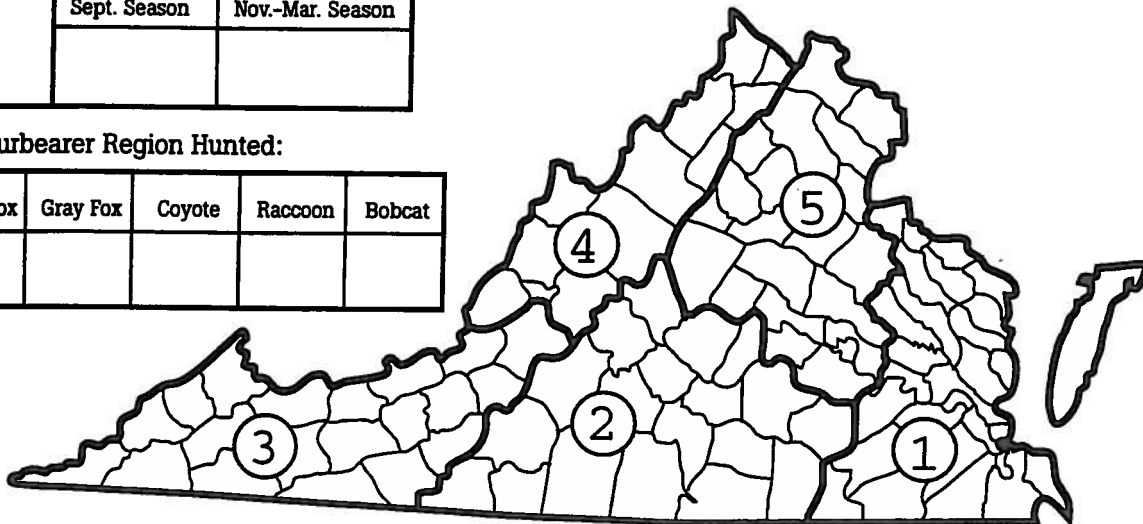
Deer			Turkey			Bear
Archery	Muzzleloader	Gun	Spring '96	Fall, '96	Spring, '97	

16. Waterfowl Region Hunted:

Ducks	Geese	
	Sept. Season	Nov.-Mar. Season

17. Furbearer Region Hunted:

Red Fox	Gray Fox	Coyote	Raccoon	Bobcat



Questions 18-19 pertain to DEER (Gun) hunting. (If you did not DEER (Gun) hunt during the 1996-97 hunting season, please skip to Question #20).

18. Next, please indicate the county where you most often hunted DEER (Gun) during 1996.
_____ County.

19. Overall, how do you rate the quality of your 1996-97 DEER (Gun) season?

Poor		Adequate			Excellent	
<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁶	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁷

20. If you hunted during the special muzzleloader deer season during 1996-97, did you use a scope on your muzzleloader? (If you did not hunt during a special muzzleloader season in 1996-97, please skip to Question #21).

☐ Yes ☐ No

Next, we would like some idea of the number of animals you saw while ARCHERY DEER HUNTING in 1996. (If you did not hunt during ARCHERY DEER season, please skip to Question #22).

21. In each of the blanks next to each species, place the number of animals you saw during the 1996 ARCHERY DEER SEASON. If you did not see a particular animal, place a zero (0) in the blank.

_____ a. Bear	_____ e. Mink	_____ i. River Otter
_____ b. Bobcat	_____ f. Weasel	_____ j. Turkey
_____ c. Red Fox	_____ g. Raccoon	_____ k. Grouse
_____ d. Gray Fox	_____ h. Coyote	

22. How many "button bucks" (where the antler has not yet broken the hairline) did you harvest during the TOTAL 1996-97 DEER season?

_____ button bucks.

Now, we would like to know more about your TURKEY hunting (both SPRING and FALL).

23. Please, indicate the county where you most often hunted TURKEYS during FALL 1996. (If you did not hunt turkeys in the fall, skip to question #25.)

_____ County.

24. Overall, how do you rate the quality of your 1996 FALL TURKEY season?

Poor		Adequate			Excellent	
<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁶	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁷

25. Overall, how do you rate the quality of your SPRING TURKEY hunting during 1997?
(If you did not hunt turkeys in the spring, skip to question #26.)

Poor		Adequate			Excellent	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7

The next question pertains to BEAR hunting in 1996. (If you did not hunt BEARS during the 1996-97 season, skip to Question #27).

26. During the 1996-97 BEAR season, did you:

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| a. Hunt during the BEAR Archery Season? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| b. Hunt with a GUN WITHOUT DOGS? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| c. Hunt with a GUN USING DOGS? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

THE REMAINING QUESTIONS SHOULD BE ANSWERED BY ALL RESPONDENTS, REGARDLESS OF THE SPECIES OR THE FREQUENCY IN WHICH YOU HUNTED.

27. Do you own a boat? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, how many days did you use your boat while hunting? _____ days.

Next, we would like to know your views regarding the SIZE OF THE DEER AND TURKEY POPULATIONS in the primary area you hunted in 1996-97 (regardless of the species you hunted).

28. How would you rate the size of the DEER HERD in the area in which you hunted most in 1996-97:

Low		Moderate			High		No Opinion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 8

29. What advice would you give the Department regarding how to manage the DEER HERD?
(✓ Check only one).

- ☐ Increase the herd
☐ Stabilize the herd
☐ Decrease the herd
☐ No opinion

30. How would you rate the size of the TURKEY POPULATION in the area in which you hunted most in 1996-97:

Low		Moderate			High		No Opinion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 8

31. What advice would you give the Department regarding how to manage TURKEYS in the area where you hunt? (✓ Check only one).

- ☐ Increase turkey populations
- ☐ Stabilize turkey populations
- ☐ Decrease turkey populations
- ☐ No opinion

NEXT, WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW YOUR PREFERENCES/OPINIONS REGARDING SEASON DATES, BAG LIMITS, ETC.

32. What advice would you give the Department regarding the bag limit on SPRING (GOBBLER) TURKEYS? (✓ Check only one).

- ☐ Increase the limit
- ☐ Keep the limit the same
- ☐ Decrease the limit
- ☐ No opinion

33. What advice would you give the Department regarding the bag limit on FALL (EITHER SEX) TURKEYS? (✓ Check only one).

- ☐ Increase the limit
- ☐ Keep the limit the same
- ☐ Decrease the limit
- ☐ No opinion

Some counties in Eastern Virginia have a 2-week fall turkey season while most other counties have a 6-week season.

34. If you were asked to help set the date and length of FALL TURKEY season in the 2-week counties, please indicate the degree to which you would favor or oppose each of the following dates:

	Strongly Oppose			Does Not Matter			Strongly Favor
2-week season: no change in current season	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
4-week season: current season + two weeks earlier	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
4-week season: current season + last 2 weeks of (Gun) Deer season	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
4-week season: current season +2 weeks after (Gun) Deer season closes in January	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
6-week season: (same as rest of the state)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7

35. If you were asked to help set the OPENING DATE for ARCHERY DEER season, please indicate the degree to which you would favor or oppose each of the following dates:

	Strongly Oppose		Does Not Matter			Strongly Favor	
a. 2nd Saturday in September	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
b. 3rd Saturday in September	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
c. 4th Saturday in September	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
d. 1st Saturday in October	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7

36. Please indicate the degree to which you would favor or oppose the requirement of a SEPARATE BEAR HUNTING LICENSE:

	Strongly Oppose		Does Not Matter			Strongly Favor	
	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7

37. To what extent would you favor or oppose each of the following costs to purchase a separate bear license if one was required?

	Strongly Oppose		Does Not Matter			Strongly Favor	
a. \$1.00	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
b. \$5.00	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
c. \$12.00	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
d. \$25.00	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
e. \$50.00	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7

38. Please consider the following options to have 1 day dedicated specifically for YOUNG HUNTERS ONLY to DEER HUNT with a REGULAR FIREARM. Except to assist young hunters, 15 years or younger, no other hunters would be allowed to hunt on this day. Please indicate the degree to which you would favor or oppose each day.

	Strongly Oppose		Does Not Matter			Strongly Favor	
a. 1 Saturday before archery season opens	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
b. 1 Saturday during archery season	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
c. The last Saturday in the early muzzleloader season (the Saturday immediately prior to firearms season)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
d. 1 Saturday during the late muzzleloader season	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7

39. If a day was dedicated specifically for young hunters only, would you personally take a young hunter hunting?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Sure

40. Please indicate the degree to which you would favor or oppose SUNDAY HUNTING.

- | Strongly
Oppose | Does Not
Matter | | | Strongly
Favor | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 7 |

IN THE NEXT QUESTION, WE WOULD LIKE YOUR INPUT REGARDING HOW TO ALLOCATE FUNDING TO THE MANAGEMENT OF SELECTED SPECIES.

41. Following are eight (8) categories of wildlife species. If you were given one dollar (\$1.00), how would you distribute that dollar among the categories? For example, you might allocate 25¢ to deer management, 25¢ to turkey management, 10¢ to managing nongame, and 40¢ to managing endangered species. Place the amount of money you would allocate to each category in the blanks provided. BE SURE TO SPEND THE WHOLE DOLLAR.

- _____ Turkeys
_____ Bear
_____ Squirrels
_____ Quail and Rabbits
_____ Non-game Species
_____ Deer
_____ Waterfowl
_____ Endangered Species
\$1.00 TOTAL

THE NEXT GROUP OF QUESTIONS PERTAINS TO YOU, THE HUNTER.

42. Below are 11 game species commonly hunted in Virginia. If you had to classify yourself as a hunter of one particular species over all the others, how would you classify yourself? (✓ Check only one).

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deer | <input type="checkbox"/> Fall Turkey | <input type="checkbox"/> Spring Turkey | <input type="checkbox"/> Bear |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Quail | <input type="checkbox"/> Rabbit | <input type="checkbox"/> Squirrel | <input type="checkbox"/> Grouse |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waterfowl | <input type="checkbox"/> Raccoon | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____ | |

43. How old are you? _____ years.

44. Marital Status:

☐ Never Married ☐ Married ☐ Divorced ☐ Separated ☐ Widowed

45. Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female

46. Do you have children? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, how many live at home? _____

47. Do your children hunt? ☐ Yes ☐ No

48. How old were you when you first hunted? _____ years.

49. Who taught you to hunt? (✓ Check only one).

<input type="checkbox"/> Father	<input type="checkbox"/> Brother/Sister
<input type="checkbox"/> Spouse	<input type="checkbox"/> Grandparent
<input type="checkbox"/> Mother	<input type="checkbox"/> Friend
<input type="checkbox"/> Uncle/Aunt	<input type="checkbox"/> No one taught me, I learned on my own

50. What best describes your father's attitude toward hunting when you were young?

(✓ Check only one.)

<input type="checkbox"/> Personally hunted	<input type="checkbox"/> Discouraged my interest in hunting
<input type="checkbox"/> Did not hunt, but approved of hunting	<input type="checkbox"/> Forbid me to hunt
<input type="checkbox"/> Tolerated my interest in hunting	<input type="checkbox"/> Do not know

51. What best describes your mother's attitude toward hunting when you were young?

(✓ Check only one.)

<input type="checkbox"/> Personally hunted	<input type="checkbox"/> Discouraged my interest in hunting
<input type="checkbox"/> Did not hunt, but approved of hunting	<input type="checkbox"/> Forbid me to hunt
<input type="checkbox"/> Tolerated my interest in hunting	<input type="checkbox"/> Do not know

52. What is your spouse's attitude toward hunting? (✓ Check only one.)

<input type="checkbox"/> My spouse is a hunter	<input type="checkbox"/> Discourages my interest in hunting
<input type="checkbox"/> Does not hunt, but approves of hunting	<input type="checkbox"/> Do not know
<input type="checkbox"/> Tolerates my interest in hunting	<input type="checkbox"/> I am not married

53. What is your closest friend's attitude toward hunting? (✓ Check only one.)

<input type="checkbox"/> Personally hunts	<input type="checkbox"/> Discourages my interest in hunting
<input type="checkbox"/> Does not hunt, but approves of hunting	<input type="checkbox"/> Do not know
<input type="checkbox"/> Tolerates my interest in hunting	

54. In what type of area do you currently reside? (✓ Check only one.)

- ☐ Farm
- ☐ Rural, but not farm
- ☐ Town (less than 50,000 in population)
- ☐ Urban (city over 50,000 in population)
- ☐ Suburban (adjacent to city over 50,000 in population)

55. Where did you reside as a child? (✓ Check only one.)

- ☐ Farm
- ☐ Rural, but not farm
- ☐ Town (less than 50,000 in population)
- ☐ Urban (city over 50,000 in population)
- ☐ Suburban (adjacent to city over 50,000 in population)

THE FINAL SECTION PERTAINS TO CONSTRAINTS THAT INHIBIT YOUR ABILITY OR OPPORTUNITY TO HUNT.

We would like to know the reasons why people do not hunt (or do not hunt more). Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements by checking the most appropriate box.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	No Opinion	Agree	Strongly Agree
56. I do not perceive any barriers to my hunting activities. I hunt as much as I wish.	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵
57. In my leisure time, I prefer to participate in activities other than hunting.	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵
58. I am unable to hunt due to a disability	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵
59. Family activities leave me little time for hunting.	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵
60. When I have free time, I'd rather stay at home.	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵
61. The cost of equipment makes hunting too expensive.	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵
62. Laws pertaining to hunting are too confusing.	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵
63. Work commitments leave little time for hunting.	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵
64. The cost of a hunting license is too expensive.	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵
65. Travel costs (gas, meals and lodging) make hunting too expensive.	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵
66. I have no opportunities to hunt near my home.	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵
67. Public hunting lands are too crowded.	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵
68. I do not know where to go to hunt.	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	No Opinion	Agree	Strongly Agree
69. Public hunting lands are too dangerous.	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵
70. I do not have access to private lands on which to hunt.	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵
71. Being able to hunt only one day of the weekend limits my hunting activity.	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵
72. Hunting requires too much effort.	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵
73. None of my family or friends hunt, therefore I have no one to hunt with.	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵
74. Gaining access to private land on which to hunt is becoming more difficult.	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵
75. I have difficulty finding a place to purchase a hunting license.	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵
76. Hunting on private land is becoming dangerous.	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵
77. Hunting regulations are confusing and complicated.	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵
78. Private lands are too crowded.	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵
79. Game populations and my chances for success are too low to make hunting worthwhile.	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵
80. Other hunting seasons interfere with my favorite kind of hunting.	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵
81. Many of my friends/family do not approve of hunting. Therefore, I am somewhat embarrassed to mention hunting in their presence.	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵
82. I'd rather photograph or observe game now instead of kill them.	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵
83. I feel unsafe when hunting due to the poor ethics of other hunters.	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵
84. Because of the poor behavior of some hunters, I am embarrassed to be viewed as a hunter.	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵
85. Finally, we would like to know if you purchased a Virginia hunting license in the following years (✓ Check all that apply).					
<input type="checkbox"/> 1995-96					
<input type="checkbox"/> 1994-95					
<input type="checkbox"/> 1993-94					
<input type="checkbox"/> 1992-93					
<input type="checkbox"/> 1991-92					

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Your answers are very important to the successful management of wildlife in Virginia. If you have questions regarding the study or this questionnaire, please contact the Center for Recreation Resources Policy at (703) 993-2064.

PLEASE FOLD THE QUESTIONNAIRE,
PLACE IT IN THE RETURN ENVELOPE, AND
RETURN IT TO US AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
THANKS AGAIN!

Hunter Survey
Center for Recreation Resources Policy
George Mason University
Mail Stop 1F6
Fairfax, VA 22030-4444

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	No Opinion	Agree	Strongly Agree
69. Public hunting lands are too dangerous.	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵
70. I do not have access to private lands on which to hunt.	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵
71. Being able to hunt only one day of the weekend limits my hunting activity.	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵
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80. Other hunting seasons interfere with my favorite kind of hunting.	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵
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Center for Recreation Resources Policy
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Center for Recreation Resources Policy
George Mason University
Mail Stop 1F6
Fairfax, VA 22030-4444**

- | | Strongly
Disagree | Disagree | No
Opinion | Agree | Strongly
Agree |
|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
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